

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SHARING A SECURE CLIENT CONNECTION BETWEEN MULTIPLE SERVERS

ABSTRACT

One embodiment of the present invention provides a system for sharing a secure communication session with a client between a plurality of servers. The system operates by receiving a message from the client at a first server. This message includes a session identifier, which identifies a secure communication session with the client. If the session identifier does not correspond to an active secure communication session on the first server, the first server establishes an active secure communication session with the client by attempting to retrieve security state information from a second server, which had an active secure communication session with the client. If the first server is able to retrieve this security state information, the first server uses this state information to establish the active secure communication session with the client without having to communicate with the client. If the first server is not able to retrieve this state information, the first server communicates with the client to establish the secure communication session with the client.